



PTA's Efforts to improve ICT Data Collection & Reporting and ICT Ranking of Pakistan



Background

- Despite significant progress and development in the ICT and telecom sector in Pakistan recently, Pakistan has not shown the corresponding improvement in the ICT rankings published by various international organizations (Currently ranked 143 out of 166 countries in the ITU's ICT Development Index).
- PTA has, therefore, undertaken an initiative to work with ITU and national organizations to identify potential gaps in data collection, data completeness and data reporting, as well as to compile necessary ICT indicators that are frequently required by international organizations for developing ICT rankings of countries.

ICT Development Index (IDI)

There are two major components of ITU's ICT Development Index (IDI):

- **Country Ranking:** It is an uncontrollable component as countries' rankings are derived by comparing countries' individual IDI values. The ranking is done on the basis of comparative analysis of all countries' IDIs.
- **Country's ICT Development Index (IDI):** This is the controllable, and hence, most important component as it provides basis for the rankings. Therefore, PTA has aimed at improving mechanisms to report maximum possible data used to calculate this index.

Indicators and their Sources for Determining IDI

ICT Access	Source
Fixed Telephone Subscription/100	PTA
Mobile Subscription/100	PTA
International Internet Bandwidth/user	PTA
% of household with Computer	PBS
% of household with internet access	PBS
ICT Use	
% of individuals using the internet	PBS
Fixed Wired Broadband Subscription/100	PTA
Wireless Broadband Subscription/100	PTA
ICT Skills	
Adult literacy Rate	UNESCO
Secondary Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)	UNESCO
Tertiary Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)	UNESCO

PTA's efforts For Improvement

In order to identify gaps in data collection, dissemination and any other reasons behind the slow improvement in the IDI value, PTA has taken following steps:

- A comprehensive review of ITU's IDI methodology and other important publications has been carried out to identify the data indicators necessary to improve the ICT ranking of Pakistan.
- With the help of continuous and vigorous correspondence through email and telephonic meetings with ITU's team working on indicators, PTA has been able to identify gaps that resulted in slow or no improvement in IDI value for the year 2014.

Gaps Identified by PTA's Efforts

Path Breaking Success of 3G/4G subscriptions was missing

The outstanding success of 3G/4G (mobile broadband subscriptions) was not reflected because operators launched their mobile broadband services in June/July 2014 and the mobile broadband subscribers (3G/4G) were negligible at the end of June 2014. Had the June 2014 data been used in the ITU 2015 publication, the true reflection of mobile broadband success would have been missed.

Action Taken

- PTA in a series of telephonic meetings with ITU highlighted the launch and success of 3G/4G subscriptions in Pakistan and requested that it should be reflected in the upcoming report. ITU agreed that Year end figure of mobile broadband subscription could be provided to reflect the success of 3G/4G in the year 2014.

Impact

- **As an outcome, Pakistan's indicator for mobile broadband subscription per 100 jumped from 0.8% in ITU Report for the year 2014 to 5.1% in the 2015 Report.**

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2. No Data was Provided on 3 Household Indicators:

As a standard practice, ITU only accepts household data from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of all countries, that in the case of Pakistan is the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

The following three of the indicators based on household data are to be provided by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) based on a household survey:

- % of household with a computer,
- % of household with internet access
- % of individuals using the internet

However, due to non-availability of such survey, PBS does not provide any data to ITU on these indicators. Therefore, ITU provides its own estimates based on available data from Pakistan's basic ICT indicators and thus probably results in an under-estimation of ICT usage and access in Pakistan, and may not be an actual representation of ICT development and usage in Pakistan.

Actions Taken by PTA

1. Correspondence with ITU

- **ITU indicated that no data is provided by Pakistan on these 3 Household related indicators**. However, PTA had telephonic meetings with ITU to highlight that their estimations on Internet Access & Usage as well as usage of computers are too conservative. Especially, the number of internet users does not reflect the immense number of mobile broadband subscribers.

Impact

- Due to PTA's efforts and being in constant coordination with ITU our **indicators have shown a remarkable increase** as evident from the following improvements:
 - % of households with computer (figure has increased from 14.1% to 15.9%)
 - % of households with internet access has also significantly increased from 8.3% to 13.2%
 - % of individuals using internet has increased from 10.9% to 13.8%
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2. Correspondence with PBS:

PTA has conducted a series of meetings and correspondence with Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, highlighting the issue of no data provision on the above three household related indicators to ITU. PBS has shown positive response on including ICT related questions in their household surveys.

Impact

- PTA and PBS are now working together to collect the required household data that will capture the missing household based ICT indicators. As a short-term immediate solution, PBS has included necessary questions in their existing in-field household survey. Data of first batch of survey has already been submitted to ITU. It is expected that PBS will share data of full survey with ITU by August 2016 (in line with the next ITU long questionnaire / survey).

Overall Impact

- The biggest achievement for Pakistan is that with the timely efforts of PTA, our ICT Development Index (IDI) has increased from 2.05 in 2014 to 2.24 in 2015 (a **0.19** increase) compared to only **0.04** increase between 2013 and 2014.
- ***Had PTA not taken the above mentioned measures, Pakistan's ranking would have probably dropped to 151 (Equivalent to Benin IDI value of 2.05)***
- ***However, PTA's efforts improved Pakistan's IDI to 2.24 and resulted in Pakistan's ranking at 143 rather than 151.***

Proposed Future Actions

- Keeping in view the exceptional developments in the area of ICTs in Pakistan such as mobile broadband penetration, it has been proposed that household survey on ICTs indicators should be made an integral part of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics' annual surveys so that accurate data can be provided on time.
- A working group of MOIT, PTA and PBS has been proposed to be formed to monitor ICT Development Index, its data collection and dissemination to ITU.
- Ministry of education / PBS have been proposed to be taken on board to identify the source of data from 3 indicators related to literacy rate, where Pakistan is not performing well and it has an impact on overall IDI.
- MOIT and PTA will continue and / or increase their efforts to increase the internet / broadband penetration in Pakistan to be competitive with the progress in other countries.



Thanks

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